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THE LUMBER TRUST A CURSE TO HONOLULU

Keeps up Prices and Discourages Improvements.

CHOKING LIFE OUT OF THE CITY

SAMPLES OF THE DISASTROUS WORK DONE BY THE TRUST ALREADY.

Sanitary Laundry People Imported Their Own Lumber—Control Paints and Wall Paper Too.

Trusts threaten to be the curse of Hawaii, whatever they may be to the rest of the country. The lumber trust has been in existence for many years, but it is no circumstance to the help of the lumber trust. That is choking the very life out of Honolulu.

Lumber isn't worth more than \$18 to \$20 a thousand in Honolulu, but the combine holds it out at \$25 to \$35 and takes advantage of every difficulty that besets and every disaster that befalls the people.

For the present we prefer to let the people speak.

"There most certainly is a lumber trust in this city," said a prominent painter and builder yesterday when interviewed by a Republican reporter. "I have dealt with Lewers & Cooke, Allen & Robinson and Wilder & Co. for years and I know that there is absolutely no competition between them. And the prices they charge! Whew! They are simply outrageous."

"Shortly after the Chinatown fire all three companies raised their prices of lumber. It was high enough before, but now it is beyond all expression. I have been in business so long that I now never complain when one of these big firms makes a net profit of 100 per cent, but don't you think I have a right to kick when the big firms clear 300 per cent?"

"Every time the board of health opened up a new portion of the burnt district the local combine raised its price on lumber 1 or 2 cents on the foot. By the time the burnt district is rebuilt lumber will be beyond the reach of all but the best of us."

"Another thing, where do the local firms get their trade? Is it from the local millionaires who are putting up their \$10,000 and \$50,000 mansions? No, sir; they order from the coast and by so doing save almost 50 per cent. Take W. R. Castle as an example. The building materials which are being used on his \$75,000 home at Waikiki were brought from the coast. Of course he had his own ships to bring it in, but still would he have gone to all that trouble had it not been that by so doing he could save enough to make it worth his while? The people who are robbed every day by this thriving combine are not the millionaires, but the poor contractors and builders who cannot afford to send abroad for their materials."

"In Oahu, where the lumber is cut and saved, rough lumber sells for from \$8 to \$10 a thousand. In San Francisco it sells for \$14 a thousand. Here in Honolulu it sells for \$28 to \$30 a thousand and by the time all of Chinatown is rebuilt it will be selling for \$40 or \$50 a thousand if the law does not step in and put a stop to such robbery. Freightage costs them on the outside \$7.25, making a net profit of almost 100 per cent."

"Take paint, for instance. The best paint costs 18 cents a pound in San Francisco. Here in Honolulu it sells for 34 cents and 35 cents a pound. Wall paper carries off the palm though. I bought a small border the other day, for which I paid 30 cents a running yard. In San Francisco the whole business would have gone for 5 cents a yard."

"At first glance the prices in the local combine seem to be entirely different, but get bids from all three firms and see if the difference amounts to more than a dollar on any order, no matter how large. If the prices happen to be high the discounts are proportionately large. If the prices are small, so are the discounts. The discounts are what do the business, bringing all bids down to the same price."

"Such scandalous proceedings cannot be exposed too much. The public does not know how it is being swindled and how beaten, and only free and open exposure will bring the people to their senses."

Another Experience.

"The prices in lumber here were too steep for us," said a prominent director of the new Sanitary Steam Laundry to a Republican reporter yesterday. "We could not stand such outrageous rates, so we ordered our lumber from the coast."

"We ordered 600,000 feet of lumber in all. This large amount was played and grooved at our expense. Then, too, freightage cost us \$9.25 a thousand, or almost \$97,000. Even with this large expense we saved on the deal \$4,500. Does it pay to buy lumber in Honolulu? Our experience gave us the opinion that it was not wise to patronize the local firms though we would rather have done so. You know the lumber combine gets freight cheaper than we did, as they control the shipping, too."

Saved One-Third.

"We saved just about one-third of all our expenses when we ordered our lumber from the coast," said the manager of one of the new firms which are now building in town to a Republican reporter yesterday.

ISLAM TEMPLE IS ON A PILGRIMAGE



CALIFORNIA NOBLES OF MYSTIC SHRINERS REACH HONOLULU ON ANNUAL EXCURSION THIS MORNING

THE NOBLES of Islam Temple Ancient Arabic Order of the Mystic Shrine, of San Francisco, their wives, sisters, sweethearts and friends, are expected here today on the Oceanic company's steamer, the Zealandia. The excursion party was booked to leave Hilo at 3 o'clock yesterday morning and is expected here about 8 o'clock this morning.

The Shrine will be met at the wharf by the reception committee, consisting of the following Masonic brethren: W. L. Stanley, chairman; J. H. Boyd, secretary; Dr. C. B. Cooper, F. A. Schaefer, Prince David, H. E. Cooper, A. V. Gear, Geo. F. Rendon, Dr. C. B. Wood, G. H. Brokaw, W. M. Giffard and Geo. C. Beckley.

There will be no formalities in the greetings to the visitors—no speechmaking. The pilgrims, however, will find a generous welcome and the freedom of Honolulu and the island will be theirs. They will be at liberty to spend Sunday as may suit their individual tastes. No formal program for the day has been decreed.

At 3 o'clock this afternoon the committee of Masonic ladies will tender a reception to the Shrine at Masonic hall. The hall is a bower of tropical beauty. From the center of the ceiling to the corners and window tops along the walls hang festoons of fern, maize and ginger foliage. The columns are encircled with ribbons of leaves and in every available spot around the hall potted palms stand primly, awaiting the company. The walls are adorned with Shrine's emblems, framed with living green. Palm branches gracefully decorate every door post and window frame and circle every arch. A double row of palms, like a line of sentinels, reach to the bottom of the stairs and over the steps entrance an arch of palm branches has been spread. "Aloha" greets the eye at every turn. The artist who conceived the plan of decoration and directed its execution was W. G. Ashley, who had an able assistant in J. D. Tucker.

The ladies who gave the final touches to the general scheme are Mrs. H. H. Williams, chairman; Mrs. Chas. Herrick, Mrs. L. L. Henkel, Mrs. Louis Marks and Mrs. Ed. Towse.

The hostesses who will receive this afternoon are Mrs. J. M. Ott, chairman; Mrs. Theo. F. Lansing, secretary; Mrs. Fred Whitney, Mrs. E. I. Spaulding, Mrs. J. H. Greig, Mrs. J. C. Evans, Mrs. W. A. Atwater, Mrs. C. B. Cooper, Mrs. W. L. Howard, Mrs. F. B. Auerbach, Mrs. L. L. Prescott, Mrs. C. L. Crabbe, Mrs. T. P. Harris, Mrs. Theo. Hoffman, Mrs. B. F. Dillingham, Mrs. J. O. Lurted, Mrs. H. E. Cooper, Mrs. F. B. West, Mrs. Oscar White, Mrs. R. B. Reed, Mrs. Mamie Phillips, Mrs. C. A. Galbraith, Mrs. H. E. Webster, Mrs. T. R. Day, Mrs. A. Ross, Mrs. Paul Neumann, Mrs. T. A. Bowman, Mrs. C. A. Graham.

Light refreshments will be served at the reception. The affair is intended to be of an informal nature. The visitors will find spice and variety in the program, which, as far as completed, is about as follows:

Monday, Oct. 22—Excursion by rail to Waialua. Pilgrims will start from railroad depot at 9 a. m. A visit will be made to Waialua sugar mill and the wants of the inner man attended to by a luncheon at Haleiwa.

Tuesday, Oct. 23—Reception by Governor Dole at the capitol at 10 a. m. Drive to Anahulu, the residence of Brother A. S. Cleghorn, thence to his neighbor, Brother Prince David Kawanaokoa. Here a luau will be served at 2 p. m. The surf will await those who wish to avail themselves of its embrace. The many relics and curios of the royal family will be open for the inspection of the pilgrims.

Wednesday, Oct. 24—Excursion to Nuuanu Pali, to the Punchbowl and the Lions of Honolulu. Evening—Farewell reception by Islam Temple on board the Zealandia.

The party comprises 190 Shrine, a few of whom are pictured by The Republican this morning.

Noble R. P. Huribut, the illustrious Potentate of Islam Temple and Chairman of the General Committee on Pilgrimage, though a native of Canada, is a local citizen and a thoroughbred Californian. He is a past Eminent Commander of California Commandery No. 1, K. T., in which position he served two years. During his term of office the Commandery under his leadership, which was excep-

tionally successful, attended the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Commandery in Boston, Mass., in 1895. Noble Huribut is a contractor and builder by profession and in his business he has scored a fine success, as the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home of California and other large private and public edifices evidence. He is a skillful tactician and as a commander of the Drill Corps of California Commandery No. 1, is recognized and acknowledged the peer of any drill master in the country. He is fifty-five years of age, of rugged health, indomitable energy and genial nature.

Islam Temple's Recorder is held in high esteem by all members of that order. Over this office presides Noble Hiram T. Graves, who is a Past Potentate. Noble Graves has served the Shrine in a faithful manner. In California Commandery he has served one year as commander, and the Grand Commandery, Knights Templars, of California as Grand Commander for three years. For the past nineteen years he has officiated as Recorder for his Commandery. Noble Graves makes an ideal Shrine, being in full accord with the will of the majority and ever faithful to all trusts imposed upon him. Mr. Graves is also secretary of Mount Olivet Cemetery Association of San Francisco.

Noble George W. Bennett and his com- net will be much in evidence in the ranks of the visiting Shrine. Noble Bennett is a resident of San Francisco and a member of Islam Temple. He has for several years been the leader of Bennett's Military band. Mr. Bennett is an enthusiast on Shrine ceremonial. Assurance is given that music will follow in the wake of Noble Bennett during his visit to the islands and many in Honolulu will gladly avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing the concert.

Noble S. A. McDowell, great the hot sands the night he was initiated some years ago with heroic endurance, since which time he has been an active member and in every way contributed to the success of Islam Temple. Noble McDowell is a member of California Commandery No. 1, K. T., to which he gives noble devotion. As a business man, Noble McDowell has an enviable standing. He is one of San Francisco's substantial business men.

The Festival Committee contains a no more active worker than Noble H. D. Loveland. Noble Loveland is a successful as well as earnest worker in the Shrine. In the Temple he is ever ready to do whatever he can to awaken interest and contribute to the enjoyment of his fellow Nobles. He is the Generalissimo of Golden Gate Commandery No. 16, K. T., in which body of Masons he is greatly respected.

Notable among the younger members of Islam Temple is Noble Frank W. Marston, who illustrates the fact that to have new and healthy blood infused into an organization like the Shrine is greatly beneficial. Noble Marston takes an active interest in the ceremonies of the order. He is enrolled among the leading young business men of San Francisco. Mr. Marston is also prominently identified with the Native Sons and took a conspicuous part in the recent demonstration in the city. Mr. Marston has many friends on the Islands who will give him a warm greeting.

Prominent among those enrolled on the Festival Committee, to whose untiring efforts the Shrine en route to the Hawaiian Islands will be largely indebted for much of the enjoyability of their trip, is Noble Thomas H. Brown, who for the past ten years has been a member of Islam Temple. He has been a resident of San Francisco for the past twenty years. Noble Brown will be accompanied by his wife, who is a "Daughter of Isis."

Among the pioneer members of Islam Temple must be included Noble Robert Prazz, from Boston, Mass., he came to California and since 1849 has been a resident of San Francisco. He comes from sturdy New England stock. His father was aboard the Constitution at the time she captured the British frigate *Degueres* and was also the first officer on board the *Paragon*, which towed at Honolulu at a time idolatry was abolished by the natives. It is about forty years since Noble Prazz, the son, visited the Hawaiian Islands. It was at the time of the death of King Kamehameha the Third. He was a passenger on the bark Francis Palmer on her first trip, and the popular ruler of the Hawaiians had died the Sunday before the arrival of Noble Prazz. He now comes as a full-fledged Shrine

and has a valuable fund of pleasing reminiscences of early days.

THE SHRINERS AT HILO HAVING A GOOD TIME

HILO, Oct. 19.—The Tribune has the following account of the coming and the reception of the Shrine here:

The steamship *Zealandia*, bearing Shrine, loomed up out of the Hilo rain that had gone seaward to meet it, at about half past nine on Thursday morning. She was immediately boarded by those Hiloites who had been previously delegated to perform this pleasurable duty. The total number of Arabs on board was 190 and they report a pleasant trip. The committee on arrangements in charge of the expedition is R. P. Huribut, Potentate; T. H. Brown, J. H. Gold- man, A. F. Gunn, J. A. Marsh, George F. Neal and B. D. Pike.

The ship's officers are: Thomas Dowdall, commander; John Koughan, chief officer; S. Cardell, second officer; F. Howarth, third officer; E. A. Keller, chief engineer; R. L. Zaachman, first assistant engineer; H. Powell, second assistant engineer; E. A. Buckman, purser; G. W. Clark, surgeon; George Robinson, chief steward.

The *Zealandia* was to leave this port Friday afternoon, but the Shrine brothers and sisters were so much pleased at the Hilo reception that they postponed the departure until midnight, which was deferred until 3 o'clock Saturday morning.

Noble George F. Neal, the genial publisher and editor of the *Mystic Herald*, entertained the Tribune reporter and others of the staff on Thursday and presented them with a file of *Heralds* published on board.

To provide against accidents and the perils that assail the pilgrim in strange and unknown lands, each Shrine has attached to him as he leaves the vessel to depart himself for a while on the sandy shore, a tag bearing the following inscription: "I am out on a *Helluva* of a Time. Lost the Rope. My Lamp's Acre Out. Send Me Aboard the *S. S. Zealandia*, Berth —, Deck —."

The following address was prepared by the invitation committee to be presented to the Potentate by Rev. J. A. Cruzan:

"To the Visiting Members of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and their Families. Aloha.

(that's kanaka for howdy.)

"Ke hookipa nei na Makainana o Hilo, Hawaii, ia oukou me ka pumehana, e like me ke kanaka ma Dakota i hookipa aloha mai ai i ka pua mohala mau o ke kau kupulau."

"The freedom of the city is yours, though the Scribe heretofore is constrained to say that the freedom doesn't amount to much because we haven't home rule. Such as it is, however, we are willing to divy up with you. We are glad you are here; doubly glad that you are not to be enrolled in the census of 'also rans,' who, when they start for Hilo, usually get stranded in Honolulu. We admire your judgment in coming here first. We offer you the freedom of our large and superior collection of extinct volcanoes; handle and examine them at your leisure, but leave them behind when you depart."

"In order that you may have a taste of Hawaiian life, also the food, we have prepared a feast at which an hundred handsome maidens of Hawaii shall feed, with deft fingers, into your mouths, and the well of Bacchus will be opened with a metal contrivance and cooled with the snows of Mauna Kea and the ice works. Aloha be good!"

"We know little of the history and antecedents of your order; the nobles in Hilo have been too busy with other things to disseminate knowledge. We understand that one of your principal tenets is to have no money in the treasury. The Hawaiian government is the same way, so we feel well acquainted with you from the dropping of the flag."

"Let us give you a few disinterested words of advice:

"Don't use the sidewalks; they are on sacred ground. Take the middle of the road as do the Hilo people."

"Don't tell your troubles to a policeman; he is a timid and fawn-like creature and shies violently at the approach of strangers."

"When you are thirsty do not, oh! do not hesitate; ask the first Hiloite you meet to show you where the town pump is, for he, also, is thirsty and knoweth the road thereto."

"If you are disappointed when you see Hilo, cheer up. It's nothing to the way you will feel when you strike Honolulu."

"At the hall to which you are invited you are to dance to your heart's content, but when you leave you are to leave the ladies to us. They are our joy and pride."

"The city fathers as well as their offspring suggest that you use due care while visiting Halemaunuu. You have heard of people 'walking on thin ice' and on the 'edge of a volcano.' Halemaunuu is all of this and the earth yawns up there purposely for Shrine. When you cross the lava you will be reminded, perhaps, of your pilgrimage across the desert and you may have to 'hold on to the rope.' We of Hilo do not, as a whole, catch on to the expression, but it goes as well in Hawaii as in Arabia."

"Let us say once more that you are thrice welcome to Hilo. Enjoy your trip; the streets are narrow, but there are no fence laws. Aloha."

The address is printed in red and black on heavily embossed paper and decorated in water colors by Mrs. F. W. Brown with sketches of scenery in the vicinity. The text is by W. H. Smith of the Tribune and a Herald scribe. The address takes up several pages and these are bound in red in the shape of a fan, the leaves being held together by a heavy cord and tassels.

As soon after arrival as it could be

THE INTERPRETERS HAVE A GOOD THING

How One Chinaman Made an Easy Fortune.

LIN SHIN CHOW'S GOOD THING

BUT HE WAS CAUGHT AT IT AND IS NOW IN JEO-PARDY.

Ample Reasons to Expect an Up-rising of Hatchet Men—But Chow Goes Heavily Armed.

Lin Shin Chow, interpreter in the Chinese immigration bureau of customs, under Collector E. R. Stackable, was bound over by U. S. Commissioner J. W. Robinson, yesterday under bond of \$2,500 to appear in the February term of the federal court to answer the charge of bribe-taking.

Chow, as he is called, was a \$35-dollar-a-month clerk in the tax office at the court house in 1897. At present, it is said, he has a fortune ranging from \$20,000 to \$30,000. He was placed in the customs service in 1897 by Treasurer S. M. Damon and has prospered ever since. He is in the toils now for accepting a "present" of \$80 in gold from Yee Fook. The surrounding circumstances of the "gift" were brought out in the commissioner's court yesterday.

The steamship *China* arrived here last August, bringing Chun Hoi and Lau King, who possessed affidavits of Hawaiian birth. They were detained on Quarantine island for examination. It was Chow's business to act as interpreter at such examinations.

Yee Fook said on the witness stand yesterday that he saw Chow at his home while Chun Hoi and Lau King were yet on the island and told him if he would help the boys out he would make him a present. Chow said in reply: "I am in the government service and as interpreter must take the testimony of the boys."

Yee Fook then said: "I will be much obliged to you and will not forget you." In reply to a question from District Attorney Baird, the witness said: "I did not know if the boys would be released from Quarantine island, but if they were I told Chow I would make him a present."

In a day or two the two Chinese were allowed to land. Yee Fook testified further:

"I then went again to Chow's house, the next day after the two immigrants were landed, and gave him \$80 as a present for the release of Chun Hoi and Lau King. When I gave him the money Chow said: 'Thank you.'"

The above testimony does not look lurid between columns rules. But among the score of Asiatics who heard the examination there were several pairs of oblique eyes that darted venomous glances at the witness. He had turned traitor to the Chinese chad in Honolulu, which makes a business of importing Chinese at \$2.50 per head. He had exposed the young, rich and popular Chow and put him in a fair way to pay a fine of \$2,500 and serve three years' imprisonment.

Yee Fook is armed for protection against the friends of Chow. He carries a revolver on the advice of officials.

Those who are posted on the inner workings of the Chinese conspirators expect at any time to come across evidence of the swift revenge of the Highlander. If Chow is ultimately convicted the Honolulu colony of Chinese will be divided into two factions, each thirsty for the blood of the other.

Meanwhile, Yee Fook is treading dangerous ground. He realizes his peril and will not be caught napping. Yet he will not be surprised if he finds himself garrotted and fed to the sharks without further notice.

Yee Fook is a member of the Chinese company which has an agent in China, Kam Fook, who is selling certificates for \$250 apiece. They go like hot cakes at that figure and the concern can afford to pay the official interpreter at the customs house an occasional \$80 for his service in getting the "freight" past Inspector Stackable. The vigilance of Mr. Stackable and the officers of the United States coast has already intercepted and deported Lau Sam and Yau Kuan. Chun Hoi and Lau King are more whose cases are yet pending in Judge Este's court. It was to save his own skin that Yee Fook told the story of the certificates and gave away the damning story of bribery against Interpreter Chow.

The certificates are made out here in the name of some bona fide Hawaiian-born Chinese. The personal description is made up after the fashion of the punched description on the covers of mileage railroad tickets in the States. Some alien in Hongkong is found by Kari Fook who answers the description. The \$250 is plunked down and, armed with affidavits, he emigrates to Honolulu.

The system is in a fair way to be broken up, but the consequences to the traitors who gave the snafu away to the authorities will likely furnish the local papers with plenty of scare-head material.

At the trial of Lin Shin Chow yesterday defendant and United States District Attorney J. C. Baird prosecuted. The bail bond of \$2,500 was signed by Wong Leong and Yun Shu Chee.

Charles Schlessinger, a prominent merchant of San Francisco, was a passenger on the *Gaelic*. He was shown about the city by his old friend, D. G. Camarinos. Needless to say, he had a good time.

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